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How you can
Protect Your Baby
From
Hepatitis B Virus Disease



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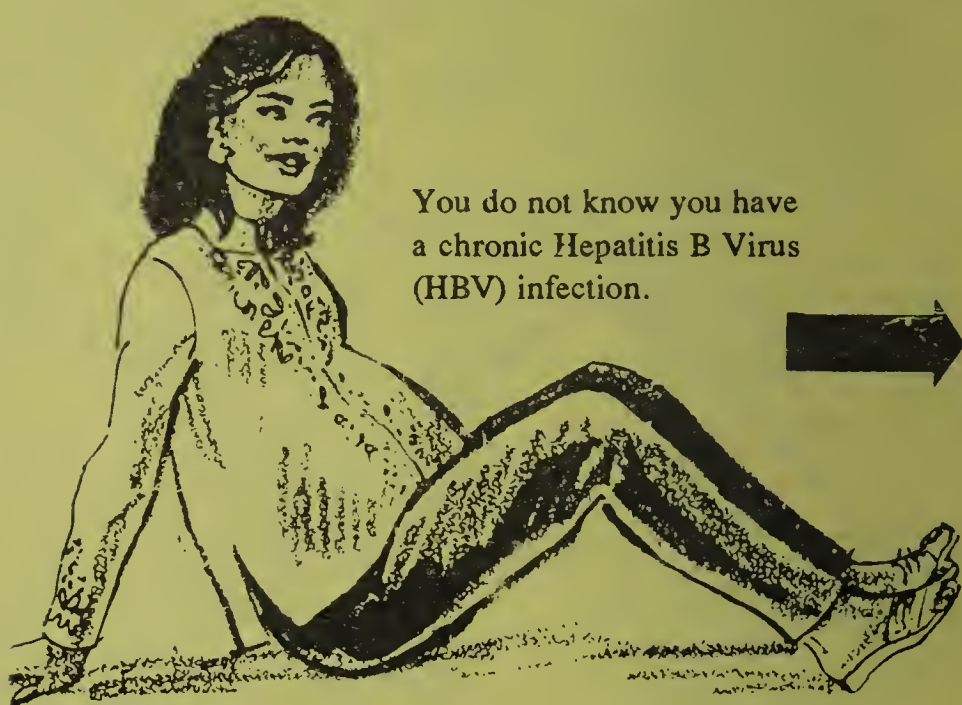
ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

**You may be a Hepatitis B Virus
Carrier and not know it!**

**But you can take steps now so Your
Baby will not become infected.**

Illinois Department of Public Health

This could happen to your baby . . .



You do not know you have
a chronic Hepatitis B Virus
(HBV) infection.

But you can prevent this if . . .



You have a simple
blood test to learn if
you are an HBV
carrier.

**Don't let your child suffer needlessly
from incurable liver disease in later
life! You can protect your baby!**



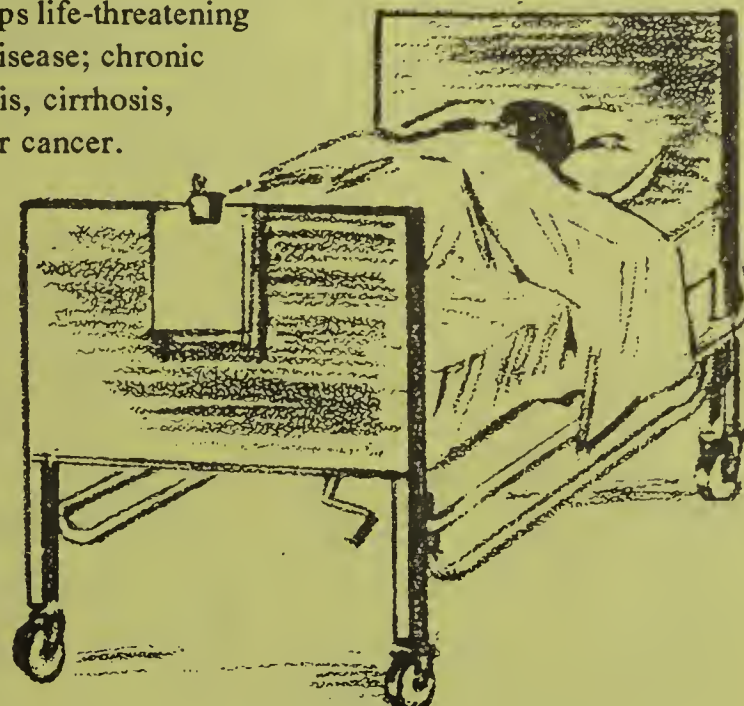
At birth, your new baby is infected by the HBV in your blood.



Your child may or may not show symptoms of liver disease.



In adult life, your child develops life-threatening liver disease; chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis, or liver cancer.



If you are, your doctor plans a series of injections for your baby.



At birth your new baby receives the first two injections.



During the next six months your baby gets two more injections.

- Get your blood test right away!
- Your baby must receive all the injections on time.

- Make sure your baby gets injections due at age 1 month and at age 6 months.

WHAT IS AN HBV CARRIER?

Some persons infected with Hepatitis B (HBV) carry the virus in their blood and liver for life. These "carriers" can transmit the virus to others who then become infected. Many carriers develop serious liver disease in later life. Others never become clinically ill themselves, yet **WILL** infect others. Mothers who are HBV carriers very often pass on the infection to their babies at birth. Many of their babies also become HIV carriers.

Fortunately, most HBV infections of newborns can be prevented.

WHICH BABIES ARE AT RISK?

All babies born to mothers who are chronic carriers of HBV are at risk. The following may be HBV carriers and should be tested:

1. Women of Asian, Pacific Island, or Alaskan Eskimo descent, whether immigrant or U.S. born.
2. Women born in Haiti or sub-Saharan Africa.
3. Women with a history of:
 - ✓ Acute or chronic liver disease.
 - ✓ Work or residence in an institution for the mentally retarded.
 - ✓ Rejection as a blood donor.
 - ✓ Blood transfusion on multiple occasions.
 - ✓ Frequent occupational exposure to blood in medical or dental settings.
 - ✓ Work or treatment in a hemodialysis unit.
 - ✓ Household contact with an HBV carrier or hemodialysis patient.
 - ✓ Multiple episodes of venereal diseases.
 - ✓ Injection of illegal drugs.

WILL I HAVE TO BE SEPARATED FROM MY BABY?

No, if you learn you are a chronic HBV carrier, there is no need for you to be separated from your new baby. And you may breast-feed your baby, unless your doctor discourages breast-feeding for some other reason. Your doctor will suggest some additional precautions to protect your family and others with whom you come in close contact.

WHAT KINDS OF INJECTIONS WILL MY BABY NEED?

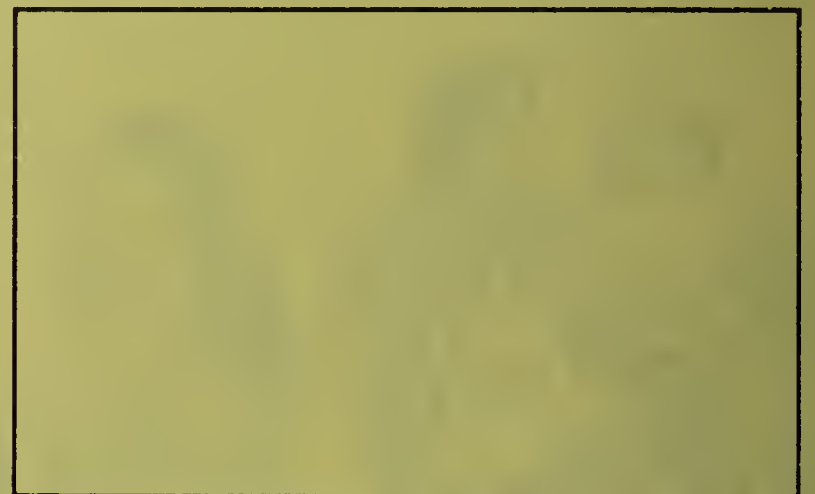
Two kinds of special injections are used. The first one is called Hepatitis B Immune Globulin (HBIG), and must be given to your baby within 12 hours of birth. The other injection are the Hepatitis B virus vaccine. Your baby will receive three doses of this vaccine: one in the hospital or within seven days of birth, one at age 1 month and one at age 6 months.

Warning: If any of these injections are missed, your baby will not have enough protection. It is up to you to make sure your baby gets all of these injections on time. This is a grave responsibility!

Your baby also will receive the routine immunizations (baby shots) that all babies need.

Between 9 months and 15 months of age your baby should have a blood test to see if the vaccination has been successful or if more doses of vaccine are needed to provide protection against Hepatitis B.

For further information contact:



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